

Learning Places Fall 2016

SITE REPORT #1

Grand Central Terminal



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INTRODUCTION

The visit to Grand Central Terminal was something out of this world because I as a new yorker always pass by this structure but never stopped to look at it. I worked there once but didn't actually know what the outside of the terminal even looked like. When we arrived at the site we stood across the

street just like in that picture to get a full picture what is Grand Central and why it is so amazing. You see the arches, you see the columns/pillars, the tripartite, the beautiful concrete sculptures and you just have to take a step back because it's breathtaking. We made a quick sketch of the building then we went off inside. Our first stop we made was at the guastavino tiles located near the dining concourse.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos)

There's actually a cool trick that i learned on this trip about these famous tiles. So if you have two people stand in opposite corners of this area and they spoke to the wall the sound would actually

travel to the other person without the use of any devices. The trick behind it is the sound echos through the wall and travels along the tiles and too the opposite corner. This wasn't the first time I've heard of something like this but it was the first time I ever witnessed it in person.



Alright the next stop on our trip was the main concourse where you can see the giant windows and astrological paint on the ceiling. This also where people can get their tickets for their trains and what not. It is a grand space and your can really get a sense of how expensive this place is by the amount of marble and gold used in the detailing of this building. This concourse had a lot of symmetry and tripartite which is what made it so pleasing to look at.

This is one of many specially crafted chandeliers made to show off the electrification that this structure has. Remembering that Grand Central was constructed at the turn of the century when electrification was just picking. They really went above and beyond to say "hey look guys, lights!" They're made of 24k

gold and all the of the bulbs are bare.

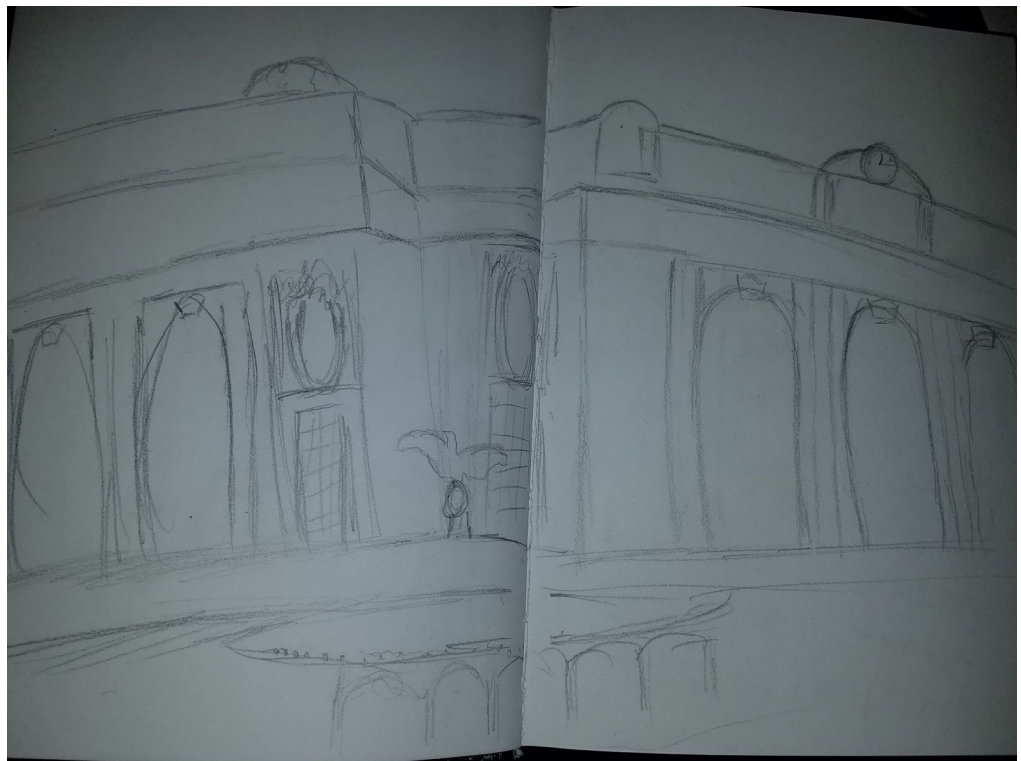


Here are a couple more pictures, one of the chandeliers in the vanderbilt hall to the left. The second is of one of the stair cases in the main concourse, i lowered the aperture on my camera so that you can see how the light bulbs illuminating the course in the warmest way. Then lastly was a part of the astrological painting on the ceiling which has several stories to tell. One of which is hard to tell unless you're like a specialist in astrology or something but the painting is actually backwards. It was a honest mistake but the owners at the time of discovery had good cover up that it was painted from the point of view of god looking down from the heavens. The next secret is that there is a hole near piscis made during the space age back in 1957.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (sketch)



This is a quick sketch of the exterior of the terminal I put an actual picture here as well to depict it a little better since this sketch was a bit rush. You have a clear picture of the neoclassical design in the terminal and the amazing concrete facade.



GENERAL NOTES:

- Terminal was finished in 1913
- Pennstation demolished in 1963 , grand central was also in trouble but then was saved in 1967 by the establishment of the national landmarks protection.
- Remodeled twice before becoming the GCT we know
- Renovations were made in the 90s to restore the terminal
- The paint was also cleaned during the restoration of the gct because it was covered in black tar.

KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS

Terminal: Of, at, relating to, or forming a limit, boundary, extremity, or end.

Guastavino tiles: is the "Tile Arch System" patented in the United States in 1885 by Valencian (Spanish) architect and builder Rafael Guastavino

Tripartite: consisting of three parts.

Post and lintel: In architecture, is a building system where strong horizontal elements are held up by strong vertical elements with large spaces between them.

facade: any side of a building facing a public way or space and finished accordingly.

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. What did they do with the homeless that found shelter there ?
2. How much profit does gct make a year?
3. They plan on adding any more stores in the future?